

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An active matrix display device comprising:
an active matrix substrate comprising a plurality of scanning lines, a plurality of signal lines intersecting the scanning lines, switching elements provided near the respective intersections of the scanning lines and the signal lines, an insulating layer covering the scanning lines, the signal lines, and the switching elements and having contact holes connected to the switching elements, and pixel electrodes electrically connected to the respective switching elements through the contact holes formed in the insulating layer, each of the pixel electrodes is a diffusively reflective electrode;

a counter substrate having a counter electrode facing the pixel electrodes; and

a light modulating layer held between the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate;

wherein the contact holes are masked in a plan view.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) An active matrix display device according to claim 2, wherein the insulating layer has light diffusion recesses, and each diffusively reflective electrode is disposed in each of the recesses and has a shape conforming to each recess.

4. (Original) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, further comprising a shielding layer provided on one of the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate, for masking the contact holes in a plan view.

5. (Previously Presented) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, further comprising a color filter layer and a shielding layer for masking the contact holes in a plan view, both of which are provided on one of the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate, wherein the color filter layer comprises a plurality of color filters disposed corresponding to the respective pixel electrodes, and the shielding layer is disposed between adjacent color filters.

6. (Previously Presented) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the contact holes is arranged in a length direction of one of the scanning lines and signal lines.

7. (Previously Presented) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, wherein each of the switching elements comprises a thin film transistor comprising a gate electrode extending from the corresponding scanning line, a gate insulating layer disposed on the gate electrode, a source electrode disposed on the gate insulating layer to extend from the corresponding signal line, and a drain electrode electrically connected to the pixel electrode through the contact holes formed in the gate insulating layer, and wherein the drain electrode has an extension extending from a portion positioned above the gate electrode toward one of a scanning line side and a signal line side so that the contact holes are connected to the extension.

8. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, wherein at least one switching element comprises a thin film transistor, a gate electrode, and a drain electrode, the drain electrode has an extension extending from a portion of the drain electrode positioned above the gate electrode, and the extension of the pixel electrode is connected to the drain electrode through multiple contact holes.

9. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 8, wherein the contact holes are aligned substantially along a direction of the scanning lines or the signal lines.

10. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 8, wherein the contact holes are adjacent to the scanning line associated with the at least one switching element.

11. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 10, wherein the multiple contact holes are aligned substantially along a direction of the scanning lines.

12. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, wherein at least one switching element comprises a thin film transistor, a gate electrode, and a drain electrode, the drain electrode has an extension extending from a portion of the

drain electrode positioned above the gate electrode, the extension of the pixel electrode is connected to the drain electrode through the contact hole, and the contact hole is adjacent to the scanning line associated with the at least one switching element.

13. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 12, wherein the drain electrode is substantially L-shaped in plan view.

14. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 13, wherein the drain electrode has a cutout at a corner of the L.

15. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 12, wherein the drain electrode is substantially rectangular in plan view.

16. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a color filter layer containing color filters; and
a shielding layer formed in regions in which the color filters are not formed, the shielding layer masking the contact holes in plan view.

17. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 16, wherein the shielding layer is a portion of the color filter layer.

18. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 16, wherein the shielding layer and the color filter layer are formed on different substrates.

19. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 1, further comprising an alignment film contacting the pixel electrodes.

20. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 19, wherein a surface of the alignment film in contact with the light modulating layer is substantially planar.

21. (New) An active matrix display device comprising:
an active matrix substrate comprising a plurality of scanning lines, a plurality of signal lines intersecting the scanning lines, switching elements provided near the respective intersections of the scanning lines and the signal lines, an

insulating layer covering the scanning lines, the signal lines, and the switching elements, and pixel electrodes electrically connected to the respective switching elements through contact holes formed in the insulating layer, each pixel electrode and switching element connected through multiple contact holes;

a counter substrate having a counter electrode facing the pixel electrodes; and

a light modulating layer held between the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate;

wherein the contact holes are masked in a plan view.

22. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 21, wherein the multiple contact holes connecting one of the switching elements with the pixel electrode associated with the one of the switching elements are adjacent to the scanning line associated with the one of the switching elements.

23. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 22, wherein the multiple contact holes are aligned substantially along a direction of the scanning lines.

24. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 21, wherein each switching element comprises a thin film transistor, a gate electrode, and a drain electrode, the drain electrode has an extension extending from a portion of the drain electrode positioned above the gate electrode, the extension of the pixel electrode is connected to the drain electrode through the contact holes, and the contact holes are adjacent to the scanning line associated with the switching element.

25. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 24, wherein the drain electrode is substantially L-shaped in plan view.

26. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 24, wherein the drain electrode is substantially rectangular in plan view.

27. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 21, further comprising:

a color filter layer containing color filters; and

a shielding layer formed in regions in which the color filters are not formed, the shielding layer masking the contact holes in plan view.

28. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 27, wherein the shielding layer is a portion of the color filter layer.

29. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 27, wherein the shielding layer and the color filter layer are formed on different substrates.

30. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 21, further comprising an alignment film contacting the pixel electrodes.

31. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 30, wherein a surface of the alignment film in contact with the light modulating layer is substantially planar.

32. (New) An active matrix display device comprising:
an active matrix substrate comprising a plurality of scanning lines, a plurality of signal lines intersecting the scanning lines, switching elements provided near the respective intersections of the scanning lines and the signal lines, an insulating layer covering the scanning lines, the signal lines, and the switching elements, and diffusively reflective pixel electrodes electrically connected to the respective switching elements through contact holes formed in the insulating layer, each pixel electrode and switching element connected through a contact hole, each switching element comprising a thin film transistor, a gate electrode, and a drain electrode, the drain electrode having an extension extending from a portion of the drain electrode positioned above the gate electrode, the extension of the pixel electrode is connected to the drain electrode through the contact hole, and the contact hole is adjacent to the scanning line associated with the switching element;
a counter substrate having a counter electrode facing the pixel electrodes;
a light modulating layer held between the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate; and
a shielding layer provided on one of the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate, the shielding layer masking the contact holes in a plan view.

33. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 32, wherein multiple contact holes connect each switching element with the associated pixel electrode.

34. (New) An active matrix display device according to claim 33, wherein the multiple contact holes are aligned substantially along a direction of the scanning lines.